

Application No. 09/574,569
Attorney Docket Number 2101197-991100

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended):

1. A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:
- developing a data structure, by use of a computer system, including one or more assumed variables that have an influence on a future financial value stream of the business enterprise and at least one future or past event for linked to each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumed variable;
- determining, by use of the computer system, a first present value of the future financial value stream of the business enterprise by aggregating the influences on the future financial value stream attributable to the assumed variables and adjusting the future financial value stream for a time value of money;
- receiving as input into the computer system data from a user indicating the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more of the future events;
- determining, by use of the computer system and in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more of the future events, whether one or more of the assumed variables have changed and whether the influenced future financial value stream has changed; and
- determining, by use of the computer system, a second present value of the future financial value stream taking into account the one or more assumed variables that changed in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of the one or more of the future events.

Claim 2 (original):

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining the first present value further comprises adjusting the future financial value stream by an assessed

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probability that the influences on the future financial value stream will be realized, and determining the second present value further comprises adjusting the future financial value stream by an assessed probability that the influences on the future financial value stream will be realized taking into account an assessed probability that changed in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of the one or more of the future events.

Claim 3 (original):

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the future financial value stream is associated with activities of the business enterprise necessary to give rise to the events associated with the future financial value stream.

Claim 4 (original):

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
determining a present value of the future financial value stream by aggregating influences on the future financial value stream attributable to past events; and
determining a reliability index that is indicative of relative magnitudes of the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to past events and the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to future events.

Claim 5 (original):

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the events and assumed variables collectively form a base case scenario for the business enterprise, and the first present value of the future financial value stream is based upon the base case scenario, the method further comprising:
changing one or more of the assumed variables, to form an alternate scenario including the changed assumed variables;
determining the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario; and
comparing the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario to the first present value of the future financial value stream based upon the base case scenario.

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Claim 6 (original):

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising selecting a stakeholder perspective from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second present values of the future financial value stream.

Claim 7 (original):

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising selecting two or more stakeholder perspectives from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second present values of the future financial value stream.

Claim 8 (original):

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first present value is determined with respect to a first date and the second present value is determined with respect to a second date, and the method further comprises:

determining a variance between the first present value and the second present value taking into account the time value of money between the first and second dates; and

attributing the variance between the first present value and the second present value to events that occurred between the first and second dates.

Claim 9 (currently amended):

9. A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:

developing a data structure, by use of a computer system, including a plurality of future financial value streams, each future financial value stream having one or more assumed variables that have an influence on a future financial value stream of the business enterprise and at least one future or past event for linked to each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumed variable;

determining, by use of the computer system, a present value of each future financial value stream by aggregating the influences on the future financial value

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stream attributable to the assumed variables of the future financial value streams and adjusting the future financial value streams for a time value of money;

aggregating the present value of each future financial value stream to form a first aggregate present financial value of the plurality of future financial value streams;

receiving as input into the computer system data from a user indicating the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more of the future events;

determining, by use of the computer system and in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more of the future events for one or more of the future financial value streams, whether one or more of the assumed variables have changed and whether the influenced future financial value stream has changed; and

forming a second aggregate present value of the plurality of future financial value streams taking into account the one or more assumed variables that changed in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of the one or more of the future events.

Claim 10 (original):

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein determining the present value of each future financial value stream further comprises adjusting the future financial value stream by an assessed probability that the influences on the future financial value stream will be realized.

Claim 11 (original):

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of future financial value streams is associated with activities of the business enterprise necessary to give rise to the events associated with the corresponding future financial value stream.

Claim 12 (original):

12. The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
determining a present value of each of the plurality of future financial value streams by aggregating influences on each of the future financial value streams attributable to past transactions; and

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determining a reliability index that is indicative of relative magnitudes of the second aggregate present value of the plurality of future financial value streams and an aggregation of present values of the plurality of future financial value streams attributable to past transactions.

Claim 13 (original):

13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the events and assumed variables for each of the plurality of future financial value streams collectively form a base case scenario for the business enterprise, and the first aggregate present value of the plurality of future financial value streams is based upon the base case scenario, the method further comprising:

changing one or more of the assumed variables, to form an alternate scenario including the changed assumed variables;

determining an aggregate present value of the plurality of future financial value streams based upon the alternate scenario; and

comparing the aggregate present value of the plurality of future financial value streams based upon the alternate scenario to the first aggregate present value of the plurality of future financial value streams based upon the base case scenario.

Claim 14 (original):

14. The method according to claim 9 further comprising selecting a stakeholder perspective from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second aggregate present value of the plurality of future financial value streams.

Claim 15 (original):

15. The method according to claim 9, further comprising selecting two or more stakeholder perspectives from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second aggregate present value of the plurality of future financial value streams.

Claim 16 (original):

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16. The method according to claim 9, wherein the first aggregate present value is determined with respect to a first date and the second aggregate present value is determined with respect to a second date, and the method further comprises:

determining a variance between the first aggregate present value and the second aggregate present value taking into account the time value of money between the first and second dates; and

attributing the variance between the first aggregate present value and the second aggregate present value to events that occurred between the first and second dates.

Claim 17 (currently amended):

17. A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:

developing a data structure, by use of a computer system, including one or more assumed variables that have an influence on a future financial value stream of the business enterprise and at least one future or past event ~~for~~ linked to each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumed variable;

determining, by use of the computer system, a first present value of the future financial value stream of the business enterprise as of a first specified date by aggregating the influences on the future financial value stream attributable to the assumed variables and adjusting the future financial value stream for a time value of money;

determining, by use of the computer system, a second present value of the future financial value stream of the business enterprise as of a second specified date by aggregating the influences on the future financial value stream attributable to the assumed variables and adjusting the future financial value stream for a time value of money;

determining, by use of the computer system, a variance between the first present value and the second present value taking into account a time value of money between the first and second dates; and

attributing the variance between the first present value and the second present value to events that occurred between the first and second specified dates.

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Claim 18 (original):

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein determining a first present value further comprises adjusting the future financial value stream by an assessed probability that the influences on the future financial value stream will be realized, and determining the second present value further comprises adjusting the future financial value stream by an assessed probability that the influences on the future financial value stream will be realized.

Claim 19 (original):

19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising selecting a stakeholder perspective from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second present values of the future financial value stream.

Claim 20 (original):

20. The method according to claim 17, further comprising:
determining a present value of each of a plurality of additional future financial value streams; and
aggregating the present value of the future financial value stream and the plurality of additional future financial value streams to form an aggregate present financial value of future financial values streams

Claim 21 (currently amended):

21. A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:
selecting a stakeholder perspective from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining a present value of a future financial value stream of the business enterprise;
developing, by use of a computer system, a data structure including one or more assumed variables that have an influence on the future financial value stream of the business enterprise from the perspective of the selected stakeholder and at least

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one future or past event for linked to each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumption; and

determining, by use of the computer system, a present value of the future financial value stream of the business enterprise from the perspective of the selected stakeholder by aggregating the influences on the future financial value stream attributable to the assumed variables and adjusting the future financial value stream for a time value of money.

Claim 22 (original):

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein determining the present value further comprises adjusting the future financial value stream by an assessed probability that the influences on the future financial value stream will be realized.

Claim 23 (original):

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the future financial value stream is associated with activities of the business enterprise necessary to give rise to the events associated with the future financial value stream.

Claim 24 (original):

24. The method according to claim 21, further comprising selecting one or more additional stakeholder perspectives from among the plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first present value of the future financial value stream.

Claim 25 (original):

25. The method according to claim 21, further comprising:
determining a present value of the future financial value stream by aggregating influences on the future financial value stream attributable to past events; and
determining a reliability index that is indicative of relative magnitudes of the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to past events and the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to future events.

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Claim 26 (original):

26. The method according to claim 21, wherein the events and assumed variables collectively form a base case scenario for the business enterprise, and the present value of the future financial value stream is based upon the base case scenario, the method further comprising:

changing one or more of the assumed variables, to form an alternate scenario including the changed assumed variables;

determining the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario; and

comparing the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario to the first present value of the future financial value stream based upon the base case scenario.

Claim 27 (original):

27. The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

determining a present value of each of a plurality of additional future financial value streams from the perspective of the selected stakeholder; and

aggregating the present value of the future financial value stream and the plurality of additional future financial value streams to form an aggregate present financial value of future financial values streams.

Claim 28 (original):

28. The method according to claim 21, further comprising repeatedly determining and presenting a series of updated present values of the future financial value stream, each updated present value determined from the events and assumed variables in the data structure including any assumed variables that have changed in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more of the future events.

Claim 29 (currently amended):

29. A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:

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developing a data structure, by use of a computer system, including one or more assumed variables that have an influence on a future financial value stream of the business enterprise and at least one future or past event ~~for~~ linked to each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumed variable;

identifying and segregating risks specific to the future financial value stream from risks specific to the business enterprise or industry as a whole;

assigning probabilities to the events or assumed variables based on the identified risks;

determining, by use of the computer system, a first present value of the future financial value stream of the business enterprise by aggregating the influences on the future financial value stream attributable to the assumed variables, adjusting the future financial values stream by the assigned probabilities, and further adjusting the future financial value stream for a time value of money;

receiving as input into the computer system data from a user indicating the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more of the future events;

determining, by use of the computer system and in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more of the future events, whether one or more of the assumed variables have changed and whether the influenced future financial value stream has changed; and

determining, by use of the computer system, a second present value of the future financial value stream taking into account the one or more assumed variables that changed in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of the one or more of the future events.

Claim 30 (original):

30. The method according to claim 29, wherein the future financial value stream is associated with activities of the business enterprise necessary to give rise to the events associated with the future financial value stream.

Claim 31 (original):

31. The method according to claim 29, further comprising:

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determining a present value of the future financial value stream by aggregating influences on the future financial value stream attributable to past events; and

determining a reliability index that is indicative of relative magnitudes of the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to past events and the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to future events.

Claim 32 (original):

32. The method according to claim 29, wherein the events and assumed variables collectively form a base case scenario for the business enterprise, and the first present value of the future financial value stream is based upon the base case scenario, the method further comprising:

changing one or more of the assumed variables, to form an alternate scenario including the changed assumed variables;

determining the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario; and

comparing the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario to the first present value of the future financial value stream based upon the base case scenario.

Claim 33 (original):

33. The method according to claim 29, further comprising selecting a stakeholder perspective from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second present values of the future financial value stream.

Claim 34 (original):

34. The method according to claim 29, further comprising selecting two or more stakeholder perspectives from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second present values of the future financial value stream.

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Claim 35 (original):

35. The method according to claim 29, wherein the first present value is determined with respect to a first date and the second present value is determined with respect to a second date, and the method further comprises:

determining a variance between the first present value and the second present value taking into account the time value of money between the first and second dates; and

attributing the variance between the first present value and the second present value to events that occurred between the first and second specified dates.

Claim 36 (original):

36. The method according to claim 29, further comprising:

determining a present value of each of a plurality of additional future financial value streams; and

aggregating the present value of the first future financial value stream and the plurality of additional future financial value streams to form an aggregate present financial value of future financial values streams.

Claim 37 (currently amended):

37. A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:

developing, by use of a computer system, a data structure including one or more assumed variables that have an influence on a future financial value stream of the business enterprise and at least one future or past event for linked to each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumed variable;

determining, by use of the computer system, a present value of the future financial value stream of the business enterprise by aggregating the influences on the future financial value stream attributable to the assumed variables and adjusting the future financial value stream for a time value of money, wherein the events and assumed variables collectively form a base case scenario for the business enterprise,

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and the first present value of the future financial value stream is based upon the base case scenario:

changing one or more of the assumed variables, to form an alternate scenario including the changed assumed variables;

determining, by use of the computer system, the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario; and

comparing the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario to the first present value of the future financial value stream based upon the base case scenario.

Claim 38 (original):

38. The method according to claim 37, wherein determining the present value further comprises adjusting the future financial value stream by an assessed probability that the influences on the financial value stream will be realized.

Claim 39 (original):

39. The method according to claim 37, wherein the future financial value stream is associated with activities of the business enterprise necessary to give rise to the events associated with the future financial value stream.

Claim 40 (original):

40. The method according to claim 37, further comprising:
determining a present value of the future financial value stream by aggregating influences on the future financial value stream attributable to past events; and
determining a reliability index that is indicative of relative magnitudes of the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to past events and the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to future events.

Claim 41 (original):

41. The method according to claim 37, further comprising selecting a stakeholder perspective from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the present value of the future financial value stream.

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Claim 42 (original):

42. The method according to claim 37, further comprising selecting two or more stakeholder perspectives from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the present value of the future financial value stream.

Claim 43 (original):

43. The method according to claim 37, further comprising:
determining a present value of each of a plurality of additional future financial value streams; and
aggregating the present value of the first future financial value stream and the plurality of additional future financial value streams to form an aggregate present financial value of future financial values streams.

Claim 44 (currently amended):

44. A computer-implemented method of processing data relating to the performance of a business enterprise in creating value, comprising:
developing, by use of a computer system, a data structure including one or more assumed variables that have an influence on a future financial value stream of the business enterprise and at least one future or past event for linked to each assumed variable that influences the corresponding assumed variables;
determining, by use of the computer system, a first present value of the future financial value stream of the business enterprise by aggregating the influences on the future financial value stream attributable to the assumed variables and adjusting the future financial value stream for a time value of money; and
repeatedly determining and presenting a series of updated present values of the future financial value stream, each updated present value determined from the events and assumed variables in the data structure including any assumed variables that have changed in response to the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more of the future events.

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Claim 45 (original):

45. The method according to claim 44, wherein determining the first present value and determining each updated present value further comprise adjusting the future financial value stream by an assessed probability that the influences on the future financial value stream will be realized.

Claim 46 (original):

46. The method according to claim 44, wherein the future financial value stream is associated with activities of the business enterprise necessary to give rise to the events associated with the future financial value stream.

Claim 47 (original):

47. The method according to claim 44, further comprising:
determining a present value of the future financial value stream by aggregating influences on the future financial value stream attributable to past events; and
determining a reliability index that is indicative of relative magnitudes of the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to past events and the present value of the future financial value stream attributable to future events.

Claim 48 (original):

48. The method according to claim 44, wherein the events and assumed variables collectively form a base case scenario for the business enterprise, and the first present value of the future financial value stream is based upon the base case scenario, the method further comprising:
changing one or more of the assumed variables, to form an alternate scenario including the changed assumed variables;
determining the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario; and
comparing the present value of the future financial value stream based upon the alternate scenario to the first present value of the future financial value stream based upon the base case scenario.

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Claim 49 (original):

49. The method according to claim 44, further comprising selecting a stakeholder perspective from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second present values of the future financial value stream.

Claim 50 (original):

50. The method according to claim 44, further comprising selecting two or more stakeholder perspectives from among a plurality of stakeholder perspectives for determining the first and second present values of the future financial value stream

Claim 51 (original):

51. The method according to claim 44, wherein the first present value is determined with respect to a first date and a selected one of the updated present values is determined with respect to a second date, and the method further comprises:

determining a variance between the first present value and the selected updated present value taking into account the time value of money between the first and second dates; and

attributing the variance between the first present value and the selected updated present value to events that occurred between the first and second dates.

Claim 52 (original):

52. The method according to claim 44, further comprising:

determining a present value of each of a plurality of additional future financial value streams; and

aggregating the present value of the first future financial value stream and the plurality of additional future financial value streams to form an aggregate present financial value of future financial values streams.

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